

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 HA-05 /100 W

-----099788 151857Z /45

P 151514Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1420

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PE

SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) LIMA 6909, (B) LIMA 7178

1. SUMMARY: THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HELD ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION LAST WEEK AND IN TWO LENGTHY SESSIONS FINALLY PASSED ABOUT HALF OF THE 51 ARTICLES PROPOSED FOR ITS RULES OF ORDER. HAYA DE LA TORRE APPEARS TO BE FLOURISHING DESPITE THE MARATHON SESSIONS. A PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN ASSEMBLY COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE CORRUPTION DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS HAS BEEN ADOPTED. PPC LEADER BEDOYA REYES SUPPORTED THE LEFT'S CALL FOR A GENERAL LABOR AMNESTY PROVIDED IT COVERS THE PAST 10 YEARS AND ADVANCED PPC'S PROPOSALS TO AVOID FUTURE MILITARY COUPS. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER TWO LENGTHY SESSIONS AUG 10 AND 11 (THE FIRST LASTING UNTIL 3 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY), THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAS SUCCEEDED IN APPROVING ONLY 28 OF THE PROPOSED 51 ARTICLES MAKING UP THE RULES OF ORDER. ASSEMBLY DELEGATES EXPECT AN EVEN MORE LENGTHY DEBATE TO OCCUR THIS WEEK OVER THE ADOPTION OF ARTICLE 3, DESCRIBING THE ASSEMBLY'S PURPOSES AND POWERS (REF A). ALTHOUGH SOME DELEGATES AND THE PRESS ARE ALREADY
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COMMENTING SARCASTICALLY ON THE LENGTHY, REPETITIOUS AND OFTEN IRRELEVANT SPEECHES BY FOCEP, UDP, PCP, PSR AND PDC MEMBERS, THERE HAD NOT YET BEEN ANY MOVE TO CUT OFF DEBATE. APPARENTLY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT HAYA DE LA TORRE CONSIDERS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LEFTIST POSTURING INEVITABLE. THE ASSEMBLY WILL RESUME ITS DEBATES AUG 15.

3. OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH HAYA'S STAMINA AND HIS INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDING OVER THE TUMULTUOUS SESSIONS. HAYA, ACCUSTOMED TO RESPECTFUL ATTENTION IN APRA MEETINGS, HAD NEVER BEFORE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE GIVE AND TAKE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES. SOME APRISTAS HAD THOUGHT HE MIGHT FIND HIS NEW POSITION ONEROUS AND UNDIGNIFIED, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE RELISHING THE ENTIRE PROCESS.

4. THE ASSEMBLY HAS ALREADY APPROVED THE FORMATION OF AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION WITH TWO SUBCOMMITTEES, ONE TO INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE OTHER, CASES OF ILLEGAL GAIN DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS. THIS PROPOSAL FROM THE LEFT WAS SUPPORTED BY BOTH APRA AND PPC. IT IS STILL UNCERTAIN HOW MUCH POWER, IF ANY, THE INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL HAVE. OBVIOUSLY, IT HAS A POTENTIAL FOR EMBARRASSING THE GOVERNMENT AND PROVOKING STRONG REACTIONS AMONG THE MILITARY. BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, A PPC DELEGATE HAD DISCUSSED WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS THE POSSIBILITY OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO CORRUPT PRACTICES OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. HE ASSUMED THAT APRA HAD ASSURED THE MILITARY THAT SUCH INVESTIGATIONS WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE. HE ALSO NOTED THE PPC HAD NO SUCH UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ARMED FORCES. ALTHOUGH REALISTICALLY HE DID NOT EXPECT MUCH TO COME FROM SUCH INVESTIGATIONS, HE OBSERVED THAT THE PPC COULD NOT REFUSE TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER IN FACT APRA HAD DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH GOP OFFICIALS. CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ANY EVENT, APRA HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO FORM THE COMMITTEES.

5. THE EMBASSY REPORTED ON THE MOTION FROM THE LEFT TO REQUEST A LABOR AMNESTY (REF B). PPC LEADER BEDOYA REYES IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HAS COMMENTED THAT ANY LABOR AMNESTY MUST COVER THE PAST 10 YEARS AND SHOULD ORDER REPLACED ALL THOSE TEACHERS, OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, ETC., WHO WERE FIRED DURING THE VELASCO ADMINISTRATION. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE LEFT ANTICIPATED "SUPPORT" FROM PPC FOR ITS LABOR AMNESTY PROPOSAL OR THAT THE LEFT HAD CONSIDERED THE RAMIFICATIONS OF EXPANDING LABOR AMNESTY TO INCLUDE "VICTIMS" OF THE FIRST PHASE. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE LEFT RESPONDS TO PPC'S INITIATIVES.

6. IN HIS TALK WITH NEWSMEN BEDOYA ALSO ANNOUNCED PPC'S INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A MOTION AGAINST MILITARY TAKEOVERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. PPC ENVISAGES THREE PARTS TO ITS ANTI-GOLPE PROPOSAL: REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE DEBTS ACCRUED BY ANY FUTURE DE FACTO GOVERNMENT; HOLDING ALL OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS AND ACTS UNDER SUCH A GOVERNMENT; AND TRYING LEADERS OF THE COUP FOR VIOLATING THE

LEGALLY ESTABLISHED ORDER.

7. BEDOYA ALSO INTERVENED BRIEFLY IN THE CASE OF WAGE INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE ASSEMBLY. ENDORSING THE LEFT'S CALL FOR A RAISE IN PAY, BEDOYA PROPOSED THAT THE INCREASE FOR THE ASSEMBLY'S STAFF BE DEDUCTED FROM THE 70,000 SOLES PER MONTH SALARIES OF THE DELEGATES. REPORTEDLY INTEREST IN THE ISSUE DIMINISHED RAPIDLY AMONG ASSEMBLY DELEGATES.

8. COMMENT: AFTER A 10 YEAR ABSENCE OF PARLIAMENT, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT MANY DELEGATES ARE EXHILARATED BY THEIR NEW POSITION AND DETERMINED TO SECURE PUBLIC ATTENTION FOR THEIR VIEWS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THIS LETTING OFF STEAM PROBABLY SERVES A USEFUL PURPOSE. OBVIOUSLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, SOME LEFTISTS IN THE ASSEMBLY ONLY WANT TO ATTACK THE GOP AND APRA AND HAVE LITTLE REAL INTEREST IN THE WORK OF WRITING A CONSTITUTION. AS THE NOVELTY WEARS OFF AND WORK IS PASSED TO A SERIES OF COMMITTEES, APRA DELEGATES EXPECT THE ASSEMBLY'S PACE TO SPEED UP. HOWEVER, THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND LABOR PROBLEMS WILL NOT DISAPPEAR AND THESE SUBJECTS WILL INTRUDE IN MANY OF THE ASSEMBLY'S SESSIONS. SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RULES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA07244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780333-1207
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780864/aaaacavz.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a0058663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIMA 6909, 78 LIMA 7178
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1738226
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a0058663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014